

Vietnam Internship Program 2019-2020: An impressive trip for NTUCE students

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Introduction

In the Vietnam Internship Program (VIP), a total of seven graduate students, five from construction management and two from structural divisions, stayed in Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) from December 29, 2019 to January 11 2020. Each student stayed in both the Chan Phuong Engineering (CPE) and the Authentic Collaboration leads up to Sustainable Construction (ACSC) companies for one week each. This document describes the program objectives, expectations from both the author and the hosts, work experiences, cultural experiences and suggestions resulted from this internship of the author.

Program Objectives

Vietnam internship program was offered by the Department of Civil Engineering, National Taiwan University and partners in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam that provides the environment for students in NTUCE study from the industry with work experience. As other internship program, the most objective is offer the actual practice in working beside academic courses that they studied in the Universities. This internship offers to student the chance to learn by doing in a setting where you are supervised by a workplace professional and have the opportunity to achieve your own learning goals, without the responsibilities of being a permanent employee. This internship also offers the opportunity to work with someone who can become a mentor for you - not only in the internship but throughout your career.

Students joined the internship program are planning to graduate and enter to the permanent workforce should complement their academic preparation with a range of other experiences, such as study abroad, community service, undergraduate research experiences, participation in sports and other student organizations, membership in pre-professional organizations, and internships.

Internship program seems like a career exploration program. More particular, this is a good way to learn about a career field from the inside and decide if this is the right career field for students; work alongside a professional in your chosen career area, and this observe the workplace and see if it matches expectations.

Personal and Host's Expectations

The contribution that students can bring to the internship companies are:

- Introduce and exchange cultures among the countries

- Advertise the companies' reputation and working environment
- Introduce and sharing the studying and researching environment in National Taiwan University in general and in Department of Civil Engineering in particular.

The benefits that the internship companies could offer to students are :

- A structured work experience related to a student's major and/or career goal
- An experience that should enhance a student's academic, career, and personal development
- Supervised by a professional in the field
- An experience that can be one academic term (summer, spring, fall) or multiple academic terms in length
- An experience that is mutually agreed upon by the student, supervisor and/or faculty member
- Depending on the field the experience might also be called a practicum or coporation in future.
- Leadership and skill development
- Networking and establishing mentors and references : Meet new people and practice networking skills while establishing a network of professional contacts, mentors, and references ; Open to door to advise on the next steps to take on the career path
- Gain valuable experience and accomplishments to add to the resume and/or enhance your application to graduate school

The expectations that the co-works in CPE and ACSC have on me :

- Sharing experience on my research major and experience on BIM
- Sharing studying enviroment in Taiwan in general and in National Taiwan University (NTU) in particular
- Connection and avertissement the Companies

Working Experiences

For the Vietnam Internship program, I worked and studied in two companies: Chan Phuong (CPE) and Architects & Construction Service Corporation (ACSC) from December 30th ,2019 to January 10th, 2020.

(i) ACSC (Authentic Collaboration leads up to Sustainable Contribution)

(From Dec 30th 2019 to Jan 3rd 2020)

ACSC - Architects & Construction Service Corporation was formerly a state-owned enterprise under the Ministry of Trade and Industry (now the Ministry of Industry and Trade) was established in 1976 in Hochiminh City. ACSC has been known by many foreign and domestic investors for its construction of FDI projects since 1994. In 2004, the company was allowed to be equitized into a joint-stock company operating under the Enterprise Law. By 2008, ACSC became a joint-stock company with 100% private capital. Through more than 42 years of operation, ACSC has been rated as the leading civil and industrial construction company in Vietnam, operating in the whole country. In 2006, ACSC honorably received the "Labor Hero of Renewal Period" title - the greatest title from President of the Socialist Republic of

Vietnam. Now, ACSC is one of the pioneers of Vietnam in terms of technology innovation and sustainable construction and operation in the aspect of design, construction, and real estate investment.

During the internship there, I studied a lot from BIM team members of ACSC. Mr. Pham Thanh Song, BIM director of ACSC introduced and taught us about BIM projects and BIM implementation in the company. ACSC adopted BIM into construction project early in Vietnam, since 2008 and it is one of the most successful companies adopted BIM in Vietnam.

Some of the Projects adopted BIM in ACSC

1. TAINAN Enterprises (Vietnam) textile & Garment Project



Picture 1: Tainan Enterprises textile & Garment

This is a Green Factory which started in Sep 2016 and completed in Mar 2017

Location: Long An

2. High rise building Greenfield 686 – BIM Pilot Project of Government

Location: Ho Chi Minh



Picture 2: Greenfield 686

3. SAITEX Fabrics Vietnam Mill

Started on April 18th, 2019



Picture 3: SAITEX Fabrics Vietnam Mill on constructing

Beside visiting the construction sites to study about the actual construction and construction management, we have a chance to study from BIM manager and construction manager in the office. Followings are some pictures in the office and construction sites of ACSC:



Picture 4: BIM implementation sharing (1)



Picture 5: BIM implementation sharing (2)



Picture 6: Meeting with ACSC committee

(ii) Chan Phuong Engineering (CPE)

From Jan 13rd 2020 to Jan 10th 2020

Chan Phuong Engineering (CPE) was founded in 1993. With a team of the construction engineers and architects, we are fully confident to offer the full services to create the big and professional projects with the scope of works as Project Management, Surveying, Design: Planning, Architecture, Structure, MEP, Cost Management and Tender, Construction Permitting for the Foreign Investors and Local Clients. CPE field of activities are illustrate in figure below:

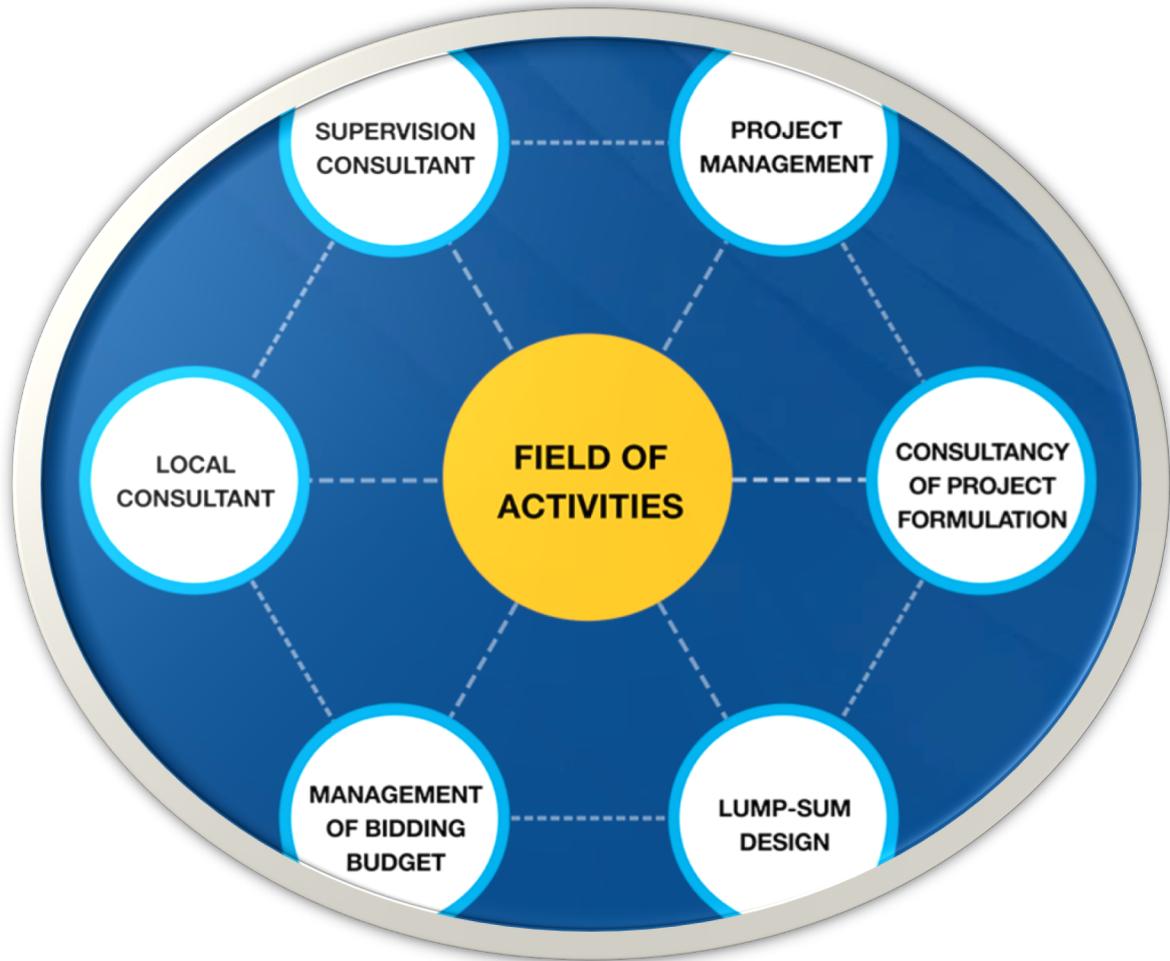


Fig.1: CPE field of activities

During internship week there, the director of CPE sent people come to teach students about project management, green building, etc...

With strength in bidding, project consultant and management, CPE has a special bidding procedure (Fig.2)

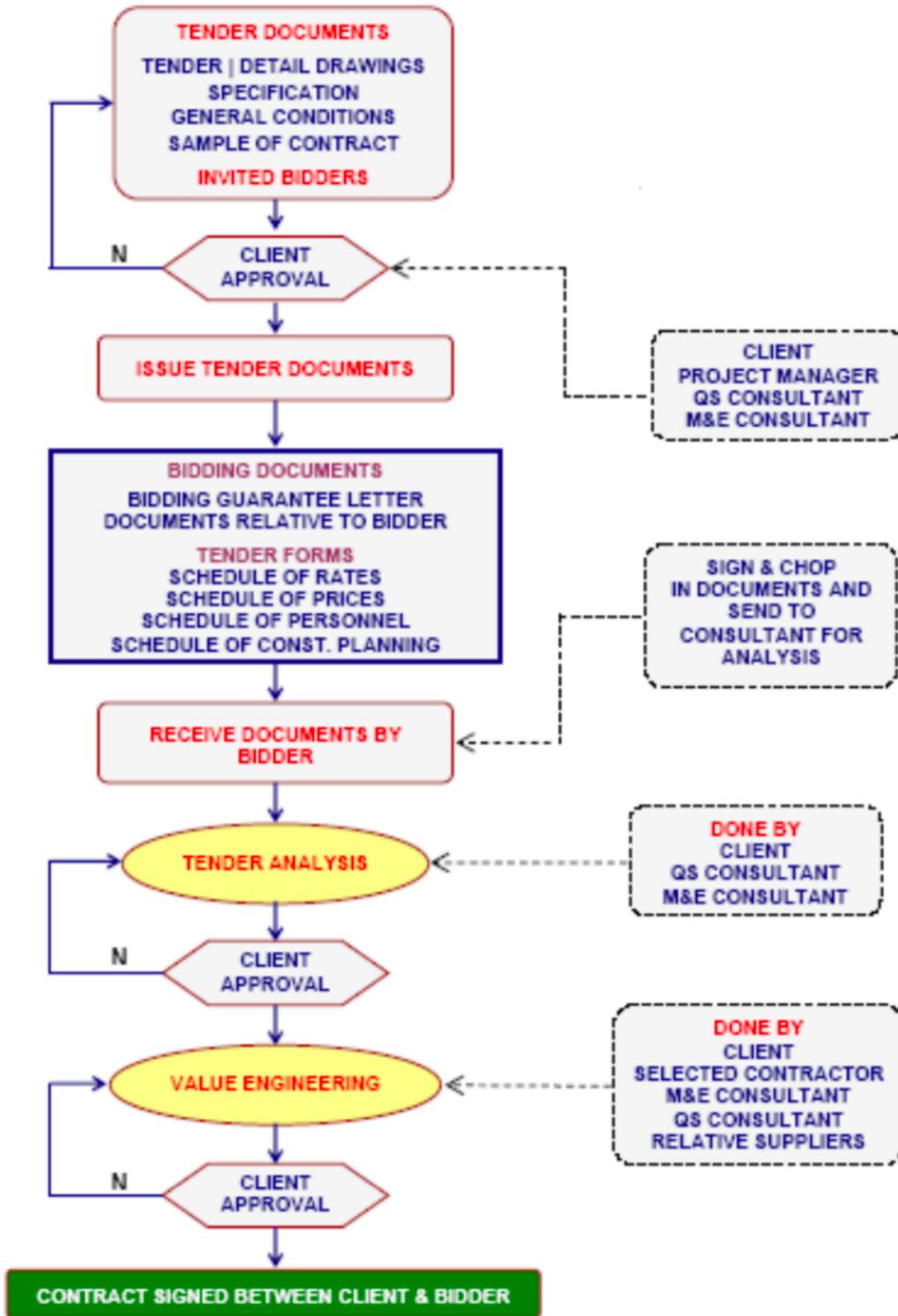


Fig.2: Bidding procedure for M&E package

Followings are some pictures that were taken in CPE:



Picture 7: Photo taken with CPE committee

Cultural Experiences

Ho Chi Minh City (commonly known as Saigon) is a city in southern Vietnam famous for the pivotal role it played in the Vietnam War. It's also known for its French colonial landmarks, including Notre-Dame Cathedral, made entirely of materials imported from France, and the 19th-century Central Post Office. Food stalls line the city's streets, especially around bustling Bến Thành Market. Ho Chi Minh City may be full of traffic, crowded and hot. But there's much more to it than these generalizations. Being patient with the Vietnamese city will lead you to temples, French colonial architecture and serene neighborhoods, far from the chaos. There is the Saigon River, with its constantly running ferries, river taxis, and motor-canoes offers one of the most tempting invitations to the city's sunset charms. And there is no better place than a seat at The Deck for a sunset cocktail.

Around 70 km on the North of Ho Chi Minh city, The tunnels of Củ Chi are an immense network of connecting tunnels located in the Củ Chi District of Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), Vietnam, and are part of a much larger network of tunnels that underlie much of the country. The Củ Chi tunnels were the location of several military campaigns during the Vietnam War and were the Viet Cong's base of operations for the Tết Offensive in 1968.

The tunnels were used by Viet Cong soldiers as hiding spots during combat, as well as serving as communication and supply routes, hospitals, food and weapon caches and living quarters for numerous North Vietnamese fighters. The tunnel systems were of great importance to the Viet Cong in their resistance to American forces and helped to counter the growing American military effort.

Folowing are some pictures of Ho Chi Minh culture and tourist destinations :



Picture 8: Sai Gon River from sky



Picture 9: Sai Gon River



Picture 10: Cu Chi Tunnels (1)



Picture 11: Cu Chi Tunes (2)



Picture 12: Cu Chi Tunes (3)

Suggestions

From personality perspective, Vietnam Internship Program 2019/2020 was successful and it opened a further work opportunities in future. For better internship program, following are some suggestions:

- More detail schedule for the program
- Time table for internship should be changed to the other time in order to have more candidates.
- Beside studying in the companies, students should works as the staffs and have contribution to the industry by actual value
- Extend the period of time.

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Some pictures of the last meeting with representatives from CPE and ACSC in HCMUT:



Picture 13: Group's presentation (1)



Picture 14: Group's presentation (2)



Picture 15: Memorandum picture after the final meeting